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Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 03886 212105Z

14-11
ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8438

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 3886

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: ATTEMPTED RECRUITMENT OF USIA EXHIBIT GUIDE

REF: A. STATE 063975 B. MOSCOW 3803

1. POLITICAL COUNSELOR SAW KOMPLEKTOV MARCH 21 AND DELIVERED NOTE REF B AS AMENDED REF A. IN DOING SO, HE STRESSED THE HOPE THAT STEPS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS NO REPETITION OF SUCH ACTS ON THE PART OF SOVIET AUTHORITIES.

2. IN REPLY, KOMPLEKTOV SAID HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THIS CASE AND HAD DIFFICULTY IN UNDERSTANDING WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT ON THE BASIS OF OUR NOTE. SINCE HOLMES EVIDENTLY CONTACTED SOVIET MEDICAL AUTHORITES HIMSELF, IT WAS NOT CLEAR JUST WHAT THE U.S. EMBASSY WAS PROTESTING. THE NOTE WAS ALSO INCONSISTENT, HE SAID, IN ASSERTING THAT HOLMES WAS NOT ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE HOSPITAL BECAUSE IT TALKS ABOUT HIS SUPERVISOR VISITING HIM IN THE HOSPITAL. KOMPLEKTOV THEN ASKED WHAT TYPE OF INFECTION HOLMES WAS SUFFERING FROM AND WHERE DID HE GET THIS INFECTION.

3. SPEAKING UNOFFICIALLY, POLITICAL COUNSELOR STATED THAT HE BELIEVED SOVIET DOCTORS HAD DIAGNOSED IT AS A VENEREAL INFECTION. FURTHERMORE, HOLMES ALLEGED THAT HE CONTRACTED THIS INFECTION FROM A SOVIET CITIZEN.

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4. KOMPLEKTOV STATED THAT SUCH ACTS ON THE PART OF HOLMES WERE

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HIGHLY IMPROPER AND THAT IN THEMSELVES THEY COULD FORM THE BASIS OF A STRONG PROTEST ON THE PART OF SOVIET AUTHORITIES. MORE IMPORTANT, IF HOLMES WERE GUILTY OF BRINGING VENEREAL DISEASE INTO THE SOVIET UNION, THEN THIS COULD BE THE BASIS OF AN EVEN STRONGER PROTEST.

5. POLITICAL COUNSELOR REPLIED THAT THE QUESTION AT HAND WAS NOT WHETHER HOLMES ACTED IN A PROPER MANNER NOR WHETHER HE HAD EXERCISED GOOD JUDGMENT. WHAT WE WERE PROTESTING WAS MANNER IN DEALING WITH THIS CASE. IF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, PARTICULARLY AN EMPLOYEE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, IS GUILTY OF IMPROPER CONDUCT THEN SOVIET AUTHORITIES SHOULD INFORM THE EMBASSY. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE IN THE CASE OF A GUIDE AT AN EXHIBIT BECAUSE INCIDENTS OF THIS KIND CLEARLY VIOLATE THE SPIRIT OF OUR CULTURAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENT.

6. KOMPLEKTOV STATED THAT HE COULD NOT IN ANY WAY ACCEPT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS PROTEST NOR COULD HE CONFIRM THAT THE FACTS AS STATED IN OUR NOTE ARE ACCURATE. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE SAID THAT IT WOULD SEEM ON THE BASIS OF THE NOTE THAT SOVIET MEDICAL AUTHORITIES HAD ACTED INCORRECTLY IN NOT TAKING MORE VIGOROUS ACTION AGAINST HOLMES. THIS, HOWEVER, WOULD SEEM TO HAVE BEEN "AN ACT OF GOOD WILL" ON THEIR PART, KOMPLEKTOV SAID. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID THAT THE MINISTRY WOOULD LOOK INTO THIS MATTER AND WOULD MAKE A FORMAL REPLY TO OUR NOTE IN DUE COURSE.
STOESSEL

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